



July 29, 2013

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

***Re: Section 63.71 Application of Verizon New York Inc. and Verizon New Jersey Inc.***

**WC Docket No. 13-150 and Comp. Pol. File No. 1115**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Access to innovative communications technologies is no longer a luxury for America's small businesses; it is a necessity. Thanks to a dramatic transformation in our country's communications networks, small businesses from Maine to California are operating more efficiently than ever before. Tomorrow's technologies hold even more promise.

For this reason, the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) strongly supports Verizon's plans to bring its wireless Voice Link technology to areas where its copper network was destroyed by Super Storm Sandy. Rebuilding an old-fashion network that people are abandoning will not help small businesses or the local economy recover from the storm. A modernized communications system will keep this area competitive and promote much needed investment and innovation.

The FCC has a responsibility to keep pace with changing technology and it will be doing a disservice to the local business community if it forces Verizon to resurrect its old network. Given the speed and reliability of wireless services – even in inclement weather – the transition to wireless makes sense. Verizon's investment is an opportunity to provide the local community and its businesses with state-of-the-art communications, and the tools that go with it.

Furthermore, today's wireless networks have allowed for business-friendly innovations that were not possible even a few years ago. Hundreds of apps are helping small firms save time and money, and increase sales. Small businesses around the country are adopting technologies like Square, the small credit card reader that plugs into a smartphone and lets any user take credit

card payments on a mobile basis. In addition, entrepreneurs are helping to develop these cutting-edge apps and new technologies, which strengthen our nation's competitiveness and innovative capacity.

The ramifications of the FCC's decision will have a long-term impact, and a forward-thinking approach is truly needed. Please allow Verizon to proceed with its plans to bring Voice Link to Fire Island and its small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kerrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Kerrigan" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Kerrigan  
President & CEO

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*Protecting Small Business, Promoting Entrepreneurship*